

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please insert the following section on page 1, after the title of the application:

**--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:**

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Australian Patent Application No. 2002952700, filed November 18, 2002, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 25, beginning on line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

It will be understood that the invention disclosed and defined herein extends to all alternative combinations of two or more of the individual features mentioned or evident from the text or drawings. All of these different combinations constitute various alternative aspects of the invention. ~~Furthermore~~Furthermore, although the invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment in which optical, opto-electronic and electronic systems and components are simulated, it will be appreciated that there may be other types of design automation systems to which the invention may be applied.